

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 6 and 11 remain active in the application. Claims 1 and 7 have been cancelled and claims 6 and 11 have been amended by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1, 6, and 7 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,286,656 to Keown et al. Claim 11 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent format. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter. In view of the indication of allowable subject matter, Applicants have rewritten claim 11 in independent format.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the approval of the drawing corrections filed on June 18, 2003.

Briefly recapitulating, the present invention is directed to a semi-conductor device including an observation part which is configured to detect a fluctuation in potential in a MOS transistor. The present invention (claim 6 as amended) defines that the portion measured is the gate electrode of a second MOS transistor. Accordingly, the gate electrode and the first impurity region of the first MOS transistor are connected via a wire. Therefore, it becomes possible to directly observe fluctuation in potential of the gate electrode of the second MOS transistor by using a pn junction in the first MOS transistor. See the Specification, page 12, lines 12-18.

On the other hand, in the device as shown in figure 2 of Keown et al., the gate electrode of a first transistor of a CMOS transistor is not connected to a source/drain region of the second transistor. Accordingly, Keown et al. do not disclose or suggest the structural characteristic defined by claim 6 as described above. Therefore, the device of Keown et al. is not capable of directly observing fluctuation in potential of the gate electrode of one

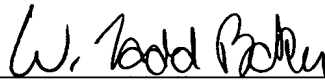
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Reply to Office Action of October 21, 2003

transistor by using a pn junction in the other transistor. Thus, Keown et al. are not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by claim 6.

In view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the case is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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